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Randolph County

FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA

CONSERVATION

THE AREA

Randolph County Fish and Wildlife Area is about 5 miles north of Chester off County Highway DD, in Randolph County. The original land acquisition of 25 acres in 1958 has been increased to 1,031 recreational acres including a 65-acre lake.

THE LAKE

In 1958, plans were in progress for the dam and spillway to impound some 65 acres. The lake was completed in 1961, access roads had been built and additional access roads were in. A service building and toilets were constructed in 1962. Several years later the boat harbor utility building was completed, harbor improvements with additional parking areas nearby, the concrete boat ramp and boat dock were completed and a custodian's residence was constructed.

THE NATURAL SCENE

The rolling topography has minimum amount of flat land. Because of the fairly steep slopes, no cultivation is incorporated on the area other than food plot planting for wildlife. The lake is surrounded by good quality hardwood timber, interspersed with several other stands. Several miles of shrub, autumn olive, bush honeysuckle interspersed throughout provide abundant cover for upland game.

Mature shrub fencerows and field borders intersown with expanses of unmowed grass and small annual food plots of grain gorghum, wheat and corn provide excellent quality food and cover for quail and rabbits. Such extensive cover on the area makes the use of beagles and bird dogs almost essential for insuring a successful rabbit or quail hunt. Several large stands of mature oak-hickory woods are scattered throughout the area.

Fox and gray squirrels are numerous and represent an important hunting resource on the area. The number of deer inhabiting the area appears to be increasing and the prospects of taking a deer on the area with a bow are improving.

FACILITIES

Picnicking — Tables and outdoor stoves are provided at 5 picnic areas in shaded areas near to drinking water and parking.

Camping — There are 3 campgrounds for tents and trailers that have vehicular access. All campers must obtain a permit from the site superintendent.

Boating — A concrete launching ramp and a boat dock are near the harbor utility building where a con-

session stand is operated in the warm months. Boat rental is available.

Horse Trails — There are nearly 7 miles of bridle paths which wind through the area.

Fishing — The lake contains rainbow trout, bass, smallmouth, redear and channel catfish. There is boat fishing with motors of 10 horsepower or less. Ice fishing is allowed when the conditions permit.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

1. Hunting is restricted to those portions of the areas posted as open to hunting.

2. Check station is present on the area (see map), and all hunters shall check in and secure a back patch to be displayed at all times while hunting on the area.

3. All hunters, including squirrel hunters are to check out and report their day's take.

4. All hunting is to be with shotgun or bow and arrow only.

5. All other applicable regulations found in the Illinois Game Code and Federal regulations will be in effect.

6. Trout fishermen must posses a Salmon Stamp.

7. Squirrel Season opens (see statewide regulations)

Over 900 acres of hunting space are available. The area is open for squirrel, dove, woodcock, quail, rabbit and deer (bow only) hunting. Check with the site personnel for upland game species and hunting dates.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City: White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only, and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

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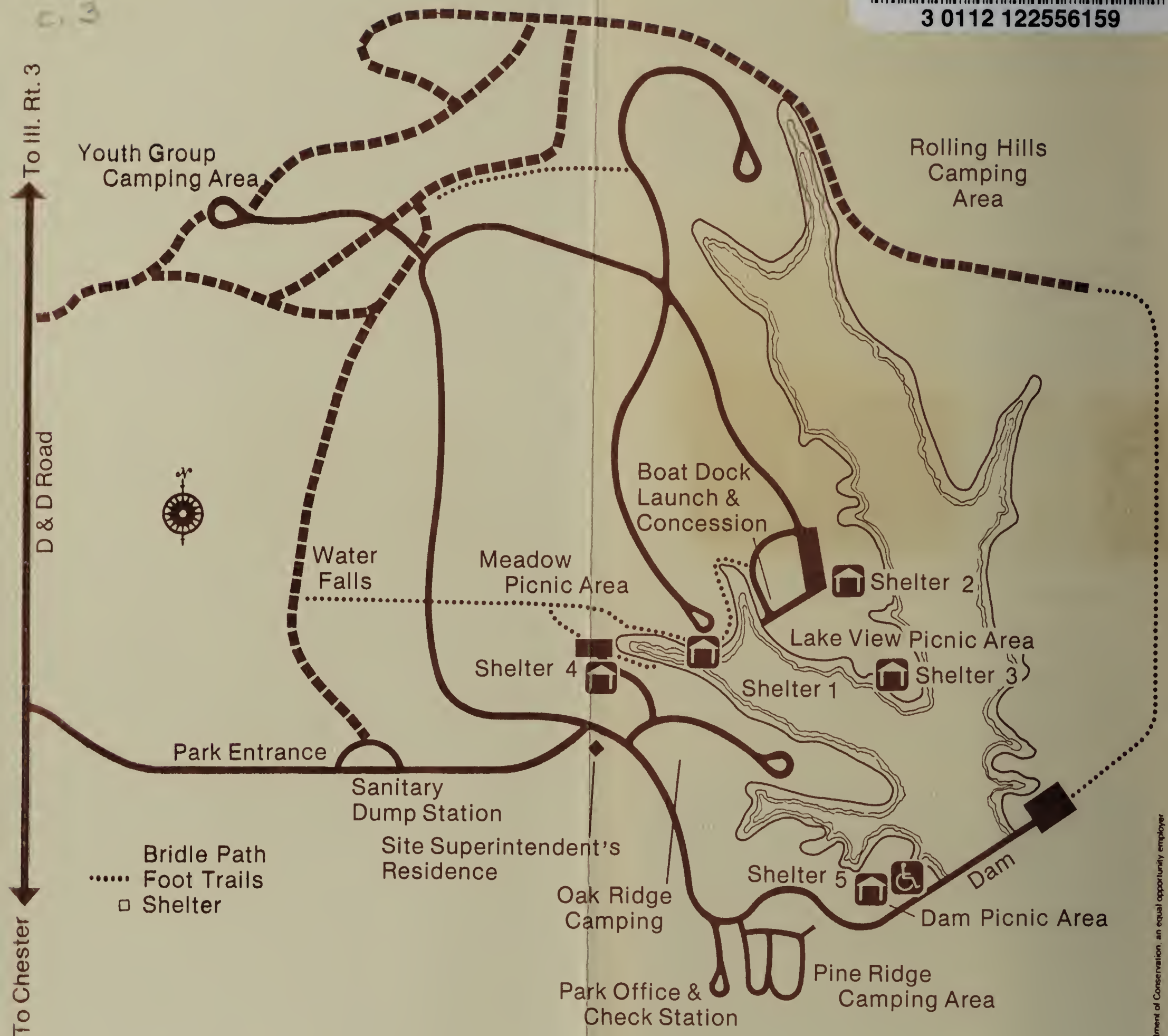

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